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10th Anniversary of Opening of Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute

Friends and colleagues joined NOAA Fisheries, the Ted Stevens Foundation and family members of the late Alaska Senator Ted Stevens to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the research facility that bears his name.

“Today we celebrate 10 years of science supporting Alaska commercial and recreational fisheries and we remember the man who led the way in creating one of the most successful laws in U.S. history, Senator Ted Stevens,” said Cisco Werner, director of scientific programs and chief scientific advisor, NOAA Fisheries. “The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act created a foundation for collaborative regionally-based management, through which we have been able to effectively end overfishing in this country and are rebuilding fish stocks across the board.”

“Throughout his 40 years of service in the U.S. Senate, Senator Ted Stevens remained committed to marine research and fisheries science. He believed that the Institute would be one of the best resources to meet the challenges of the future, enabling ‘scientific advances to go wherever our imagination and innovation take us.’ He would be proud to see this vision realized through the hard work and dedication of the Institute staff,” Karina Waller, Executive Director of the Ted Stevens Foundation said.

The Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, which houses NOAA Fisheries’ Alaska Fisheries Science Center’s Auke Bay Laboratories has earned a world-class reputation for their expertise in salmon genetic research, fish recruitment studies, which monitor fish health and development, and ecosystem monitoring and assessment which support Alaska fisheries management decisions.

Institute staff have been recognized with the prestigious Department of Commerce Gold medal award for their work in the Bering Sea, which lays for the scientific foundation for ecosystem-based management in the Bering Sea. The Department of Commerce Gold Medal is the highest honor award of the United States Department of Commerce. The Institute also received the Presidential Award for Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance for energy efficiency in switching from oil to an innovative heat exchange system using sea water.

“NOAA Fisheries is an important member of the Juneau community and we are thrilled to have them here,” said Juneau Mayor, Ken Koelsch, “The Institute is not only a bastion for excellent science but also plays a critical role in helping to educate Juneau youth.”

Over the years, the Institute has conducted annual science camps and other education events to engaging more than 25,000 K-12 students.

“Thanks to the individuals in our community and our state who had the foresight to co-locate University of Alaska and NOAA facilities on the same campus. This includes partnerships between both University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Southeast. Collectively, our faculty have been able to expand research that is important to Alaska’s economy and support the development of a talented and diverse workforce not only in Southeast Alaska but throughout the entire state,” said Chancellor Richard A. Caulfield, University of Alaska Southeast.

The half day celebration included lab tours, exhibits and hands on demonstrations by members of the fishing, environmental and government community and a dedication of a bench in memory of the Senator.

Speakers included: Mayor Ken Koelsch, Juneau, AK; Chancellor Richard A. Caulfield, University of Alaska Southeast; Executive Director of the Ted Stevens Foundation, Karina Waller, Catherine Stevens; NOAA Fisheries Chief Scientific Advisor and Director of Scientific Programs, Cisco Werner; Director of the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, Phil Mundy, Auke Bay Laboratories, Alaska Fisheries Science Center; and NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Administrator James Balsiger.

“I am privileged to have served as director of this remarkable institute since it opened,” said Phil Mundy, Alaska Fisheries Science Center’s Auke Bay Laboratories. “During this time, our scientists have spent thousands of person-days at sea gathering the scientific information that keeps Alaska’s fishermen on the water, helps to provide food security for the nation, and fuels the education of the next generation of scientists.”

NOAA’s mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth’s environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and our other [social media channels](#).

Established in 2001, the mission of the [Ted Stevens Foundation](#) is to recognize Senator Ted Stevens’ career and honor his legacy of public service by working to ensure a stable and vibrant Alaska for future generations.